

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for modifying the development of a plant comprising:

transforming a plant cell with a nucleic acid encoding a CDC27A protein that is at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2,

producing a plant or plant part from said transformed cell; and

selecting a plant or plant part that has at least one modified phenotype compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell[.,,];

wherein said modified phenotype is selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier flowering, ~~or accelerated development~~ compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein-said nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide that is at least 99% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said plant cell is transformed with a plasmid vector containing said nucleic acid sequence.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence is obtained from a dicotyledonous plant.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence is an allelic variant of the *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is a splice variant of a *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is introduced in a sense direction into a plant.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is driven by a constitutive promoter.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said modified phenotype is an increased plant organ size compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell

~~changed development is selected from changed differentiation, changed rate of development, changed organ formation, changed organ size and/or number, and/or changed reproductive characteristics, relative to the wild type characteristics.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein said modified phenotype is an increase in leaf size or increased stem size compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell

~~changed differentiation is accelerated differentiation or wherein said changed rate of development is accelerated rate of development or wherein said changed organ formation is accelerated organ formation.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein said modified phenotype is an increase in the numbers of at least one plant organ compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell

~~changed organ size and/or number is increased organ size and/or number, increased number of leaves, increased number of flowers, increased number of seeds, increased size of the stem, increased size of the leaf, or increased total biomass.~~

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein said modified phenotype is an increase in the numbers of leaves, flowers, or seeds compared to a plant produced from a corresponding untransformed plant cell

~~changed reproductive characteristic is a changed flowering characteristic, compared to the wild type.~~

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~A method for the production of a transgenic plant having changed development, compared to a wild type plant of the same plant species, said method~~

The method of claim 1 comprising:

introducing into a plant a nucleic acid sequence that increases the expression of said nucleic acid or which increases the level of CDC27A protein

~~into a plant, a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing expression of a cdc27a gene and/or capable of increasing levels of a CDC27A protein; and optionally~~

~~cultivating the plant cell under conditions promoting regeneration and mature plant growth.~~

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A method for generating plants having changed plant development, when compared to wild-type plants of the same plant species, which said method comprising:

growing a plant with increased or decreased expression of a *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence and/or having increased or decreased levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein, when compared to the wild-type plants, and

crossing said plant of (a) with a plant of interest; and

producing progeny of the cross, and optionally

selecting said progeny with said changed development

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, comprising the introduction into a plant of a construct comprising,

(i) a nucleic acid sequence capable of increasing expression of a *cdc27a* nucleic acid and/or capable of increasing levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein;

(ii) one or more control sequence(s) capable of regulating expression of the nucleic acid sequence of (i) in a plant; and optionally

(iii) a transcription termination sequence.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A plant obtained by the method according to claim 1, wherein said plant has changed or accelerated development compared to a corresponding wild-type plant of the same species.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The plant of claim 17 having ~~changed~~ accelerated development when compared to the corresponding wild-type plant, wherein said plant has in at least one cell increased expression of a *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence and/or has in at least one cell increased levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein, when compared to a wild-type plant of the same plant species.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The plant according to claim 17,  
wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, and/or  
wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean, leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, popular, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A plant part, or a propagule ~~or progeny~~ from a plant according to claim 17 or its progeny.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A genetic construct comprising:  
a nucleic acid sequence ~~capable of increasing~~ that increases the expression of a *cdc27a* nucleic acid and/or ~~capable of increasing~~ that increases levels and/or activity of a CDC27A protein in a plant cell transformed with the genetic construct, compared to a corresponding untransformed plant cell, wherein a plant produced from said transformed plant cell has a modified phenotype selected from the group consisting of increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, and earlier flowering compared to a plant produced from the corresponding untransformed plant cell;

one or more control sequences ~~capable of regulating~~ that regulate the expression of ~~[[the]]~~ said nucleic acid sequence ~~[[of (i)]]~~ in ~~[[a]]~~ said transformed plant cell; and optionally a transcription termination sequence.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid is a *cdc27a* nucleic acid sequence obtained from a dicotyledonous plant.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said control sequence is a constitutive promoter or at least a part thereof.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A plant or plant part comprising the genetic construct according to claim 21, wherein said plant or plant part has changed or accelerated development.

Claims 25-29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): A food product derived from said plant according to claim 17 or from a part of said plant.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): An animal feed or food comprising said plant or plant part according to claim 17.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): A method for the production of one or more enzymes or pharmaceuticals, said method comprising:

producing said one or more enzymes or pharmaceuticals with said plant or plant part according to claim 17.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): One or more industrial enzymes or pharmaceuticals produced by the method according to claim 32.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The plant according to claim 18,  
wherein said plant is a monocotyledonous plant, and/or  
wherein said plant is selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, soybean, leguminosae, rapeseed, sunflower, canola, alfalfa, sugarcane, poplar, tobacco, and cotton.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A plant part, a propagule or progeny obtained from ~~said~~ the plant according to claim 18.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): A food product derived from said plant according to claim 18 or from a part of said plant.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): A food product derived from said plant or plant part according to claim 24.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A method for modifying the development of a plant or a plant structure compared to an unmodified plant, comprising:

transforming a plant cell with a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a sequence having at least 95% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2, and

cultivating a plant or plant part from said transformed cell,

wherein said plant or plant part has increased plant organ size, increased numbers of a plant organ, or earlier flowering ~~changed development~~ compared to a corresponding plant or plant part obtained from a corresponding untransformed plant cell.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, further comprising selecting a plant which has accelerated development compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed wild-type plant.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 38, further comprising selecting a plant which has a plant organ of increased size, an increased number of plant organs, or early flowering compared to a plant obtained from the corresponding untransformed wild-type plant.